

Volume 24, Issue 3-October 15, 2002

University of Alaska Southeast

The Whalesong

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Local candidates meet at UAS to discuss issues, metaphors

By Emily Wescott
Whalesong Contributor

What is good for you, is sweet yet tart, is vibrant, flexible and has staying power? Why, it's Fran Ulmer! When asked by Whalesong Editor Eric Morrison at UAS's Candidate Forum to describe their political styles as fruit, local candidates for state Senate, House, Governor and Lieutenant Governor fumbled for answers. Under pressure, Ulmer quickly answered, "I'm an apple."

Loren "Peach" Leman (R); Kim "Fruit Salad" Elton (D-Incumbent);

Cathy Engstrom Munoz (R); Beth "Rhubarb" Kerttula (D-Incumbent); Tim "Orange" Grussendorf (D); Denny "Artichoke" DeWitt, spokesperson for Bruce Weyrauch (R); gubernatorial candidate Ulmer (D) and her running mate Ernie Hall (D) met Oct. 7 in the packed Lake Room to discuss their candidacies and views on education in Alaska.

"I was extremely excited that we were able to have all the candidates on campus," said Mark Graves, UAS student body president. "Education is one of the most important things that leaders can support to sustain growth in Alaska."

Win Gruening, chair of the Alaska Committee, a local group working to block the legislative-move initiative, was on hand to present his views on upcoming Ballot Measure 2. The measure proposes to move the state Legislature to the Mat-Su Borough, a move that Gruening said will cost Alaskans more.

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Award-winning Alaskan author visits UAS

By Eric Morrison
Whalesong Staff

Award winning mystery writer John Straley spent two days at the UAS Juneau campus earlier this month to help inspire students to get "fired up about writing and reminding them that anyone can do it."

The author of such critically acclaimed books as *The Women Who Married a Bear* and *The Music of What Happens*, said he hopes his example of living and working with a learning disability will inspire others to pursue their dreams of becoming writers.

"I'm really interested in helping students take stock in their own experience," said Straley. "They all have enough material to write

exceptional stories, it's just a question of finding a relatively easy technique and the discipline to do so. And if I can do it, anyone can do it."

This is the third year the Sitka-based author has visited the Juneau campus, spending this year's visit among multiple Humanities and English classes. "I love talking to students," he said. "I love getting out of Sitka and I love meeting people out of my own age group."

"It's always intense coming in for two days and speaking to eight classes, but it's intense and I enjoy that," he said. "If I'm going to be here I like working and interacting."

Straley has spent 25 years as a private

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Relief comes to UAS's recycling state of emergency

By Liesl Schuepbach
Whalesong Staff

Newly hired UAS recycling coordinator Melanie Dohner said, "Juneau is a place isolated by beautiful mountains; and mountains don't make good landfills." Originally from Idaho, Dohner is a five-year resident of Southeast Alaska and is currently completing her forth year at UAS, as a marine biology major.

"I have an interest in the environment and working in the natural world. Wanting to help out the environment, by recycling, is something that keeps the natural world together," commented Dohner.

To compliment her driving interest in biology and the natural sciences, Dohner has had several earth-conscience experiences, including a student exchange to Hawaii, where she was a key member in founding the Pacific Action Alliance. PAA is responsible for many recycling programs and environmental health efforts in the Hawaiian Islands. Now back home in Juneau, Dohner's goal as the UAS recycling coordinator is to improve upon the former, less effective recycling program, and to spread awareness about how fellow students can contribute to maintaining a healthy environment.

"We all love the natural beauty of Alaska," explained Dohner, "But we don't always see

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Photo by Scott Foster
Local candidates describe their political styles as a fruit at a forum in the Lake Room on Monday, October 7.



Photo by Kim Porter
John Straley read excerpts of his writing during his visit, as he did last year as seen in this photo.

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Issue 3
2002

EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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Your name
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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

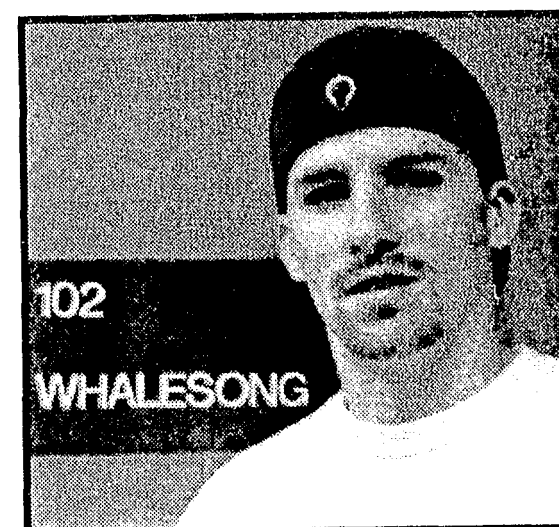
If we can't convince you, we'll buy you

By Eric Morrison
Whalesong Staff

What does it take to get students to write for their university newspaper? This is the question that has taken up the majority of my spare time this semester, and though I don't claim to have a legitimate answer, I'm betting that by offering "stuff" college students need and want we will start getting more contributions.

I understand that everyone has busy schedules and is usually unwilling to do extra work for little or no reward. I feel your plight; I'm the same way. But it's irksome to overhear people dog on the Whalesong because of the size, content and aesthetic value, when very few students have signed up for the class and even fewer students are contributing. Our staff can only do so much with so little to work with.

Like it or not, the Whalesong is a tangible reflection of the University of Alaska Southeast. When someone picks up our newspaper, whether UAS affiliated or not, they are holding in their hand something that represents this institution.



Personally I don't feel that the Whalesong is fairly and accurately representing the diversity of the student body, staff and faculty of our school.

I would love to see the Whalesong become a 12-page full colored weekly newspaper, but due to our archaic technology, small staff, and lackluster budget, we are forced to but out an eight-page black and white "social" paper. So how are we going to move toward our goal? I've had several informal and formal meetings with members of the administration, student

government and multiple students. We are working on several ways to update our technology and increase our budget, and we are going to start offering "stuff" for the staff writers and student contributors. We haven't got all the kinks worked out, but starting this week we will be giving away gift certificates for student contributors who turn in stories.

We have a handful of movie passes and several Bullwinkles gift certificates to give away to those students willing to write human interest, news, or opinion pieces that are 350-650 words long. The deadline for the submissions will be Oct. 24, and the "stuff" will be given away on a first-come first-served basis, with length and effort determining the extent of the pay out. If everything works out right, by the following deadline we will have a grab bag of gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses to give to students willing to help the Whalesong accurately represent the diversity at UAS.

So stop by the Whalesong office across from the bookstore, call 465-6434 or email jvwale@uas.alaska.edu, with story ideas or contributions. If not, I guess the Whalesong staff will be eating a lot of pizza and writing a lot of movie reviews.

Letter to the Editor Sharing experience has helped

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the piece on mental illness in your Oct. 1 issue as follows:

Dear young man,
Thank you for your thoughts on mental illness. What you describe as afflictions may perhaps actually be blessings. Many years ago, for example, I had the great, in deed ecstatic, pleasure of feeling that I and the city of San Francisco were one. Sounds absurd, no doubt, but I remember the thrilling hills, the dazzling lights, the swirling dancers. I was a part of it all. Walt Whitman had similar experiences. So did G.M. Hopkins. And Loren Eiseley. They have helped me. You have helped me. I thank you. And wish you joy of your perceptions.
Bill Dunn

Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, and grammar. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Maurant Bldg.

Third Annual Beer & Wine Tasting



Featuring the following corporate sponsors:
Alaskan Brewing Company, K&L Distributors,
Odom Company & Specialty Imports
hors d'oeuvres hosted by the UAS Alumni Association.

Friday, October 25th
6 - 8 p.m.
at The Twisted Fish

Ticket sales are limited to 150 and
may not be available at the door.
Please call 465-2848 to reserve your tickets today!
Must be 21 to attend. ID required.

\$25 general admission
\$20 UAS Alumni & Students
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<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/alumni>
UAS is an AA/EQ employer and educational institution.



Bear aware

By Michelle Warrenchuk
Whalesong Contributor

It's Saturday morning, one of the rare sunny days of fall, so you decide to procrastinate from schoolwork and go hiking on one of the many trails in Juneau. You arrive at the trailhead for the John Muir Trail in Auke Bay. Most of Juneau's trails are within residential areas. Walking down the trail you notice a small cow patty shaped pile of poop. Hummm? The content is mixed berries, birdseed, and coils of plastic bags. Further down the trail is a large patch of moss and skunk cabbage that has been torn up and scattered about. Hummm? Continuing down the trail quietly not wanting to disturb the outdoor silence you round a sharp corner and come face to snout with a 150-pound black bear!

Some inexperienced people may think that was a surprise for the hiker to run into a bear, but the truth is there were signs that a bear was in the area all along. I want to remind you all that Alaska is bear country and the highest concentration of black bears is right here in Southeast Alaska. So no matter where you go, whether you are walking to class or on a trail, you must always be "bear aware." If you don't feel comfortable encountering a bear on the trail I highly recommend that you stay off the trails or hike with someone who feels comfortable with bears. Well as comfortable as one can feel.

Some basic guidelines for bear safety that you always hear are: never run from a bear,

never feed a bear, and never chase or pet a bear. The last one is a bit little silly, but guess what, I have witnessed first hand that our species will attempt to pet wild animals. The bears in Juneau are quite habituated to people on the trails and in our neighborhoods. So the first thing while hiking is to always make noise. I like to Yodel, that keep all creatures a very far distance.



Photo by Scott Foster
If you live in UAS student housing, you have a good chance of seeing a black bear.

Second look for signs. No not written signs, who ever reads those! Bear signs, like the small cow patty looking poop. That was bear poop! In Juneau most bear poop on trails near residential areas will have birdseed, and garbage, sad but true. Deeper in the forest, by grandma's house, you will see black and green piles of poop. Those are the three basic scat categories of a bear. If the scat is hard, that means the bear

was through a few days ago. If just firm, Smoky may have been by for breakfast. If the scat is steaming look behind you!

Another important sign to look for is where bears have been foraging. Like the ripped up moss and sunk cabbage. When berries are scarce and salmon are running late, bears will root around the forest floor for grubs and roots. Turned over rocks are another sign to watch for.

So you have taken all the precautions and you are yodeling down the trail and you do see a bear sitting beside the trail. What do you do? Stand your ground and never run or turn your back on the bear. First wave your hands in the air and loudly say, "HEY BEAR, HEY BEAR, I WANT TO GO PAST YOU BEAR!" Mr./Mrs. Bear does not want to move, depending on the situation you can back away and return the way you came. But if you are trying to get back to the trailhead and this is the only way down you may want bang two sticks together, or clap your hands. Most likely these things will get Smoky off the trail so you can return home safely.

As I mentioned earlier you should always be "bear aware" living in Juneau. Even at your home, whether home is an apartment downtown or student housing. Chances are that if you live in student housing you will have a very good chance of seeing bears because they pass through that corridor quite often, more so if your roommate has left the trash outside the door. Don't be a dummy and run face to snout with a bear, be aware that they are out there! Alaska is bear country and they are our closest most permanent neighbors whether we like it or not.

Squires Rest



Wet Wednesday
Oct 16th & 23rd

Squires rocks w/ the
BASTARDS

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October 30th

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Expanding the UAS trail system

By Ben Nestler
Whalesong Staff

Most students here at UAS do a lot of walking; we walk everywhere! You may have noticed the little "nature trails" or "shortcuts" that have cropped up all over campus... Well, YOU are being given a chance to improve on this beautiful area with the help of a true landscape artist!

We have a "landscape superintendent" on this campus named David Lendrum, but he coordinates more than just landscaping around campus. One of his goals this semester is to improve the existing trail system around and through the campus for the enjoyment of all.

"A trail guide is in the works, knowing where the trails are and what to expect on them is the basis of universal access," Lendrum said. "What we want to do is mesh a university-wide trail system with the existing city and federal trail systems." One of the first things done this year was to improve access to the shoreside kiosk below the Maurant Building. My Spanish professor, Rick Bellagh, commented, "A trail around the lake especially towards Back Loop highway would be a great start to having a trail around the lake."

In fact, according to Mr. Lendrum, that is one of the goals of this survey. To find out if there is enough interest in expanding the trail-wide system.

UAS student Kim Wickman asked, "Why is the path from housing to the highway not handicap accessible?" Lendrum replied, "The reason is that the rise in elevation makes it extremely difficult to find a solution,

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Limit 3 pizzas.
Expires October 28

Call Papa Murphy's at
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FEATURES

Recycling continued from page 1

how pollution adds up or the problems it creates; if we don't take action, we are going to lose that beauty."

Dohner's first plan toward recycling and reducing waste at the Juneau campus will begin with the formation of a recycling club. "The hardest part about my job as a recycling coordinator is getting people involved. I am one person out of many who care about the environment. I am hoping for a lot of support from the student body and faculty," said Dohner. "We have such a strong student community here in Juneau; we should all take some responsibility toward recycling and reducing or reusing our trash." Efforts that Dohner has in mind for the student population include: recycling their papers, bottles, and cans, finding a way to reuse materials, or simply considering how much they use and throw away.

Problems facing recycling efforts in the past were mostly due to limited opportunities to recycle waste. UAS had very few recycling containers and all recyclable material must be shipped to Anchorage or Seattle for processing. Nearly all waste produced by the city of Juneau builds up in the landfill or is incinerated. "I don't want to be breathing in a smoldering plastic bottle. Do you?" Dohner added. People need to be informed about what is recyclable and what is really trash. In actuality, almost everything from metal scraps, rubber, plastic, and even old paint cans, can be processed and formed into something new. Recycling is really worth the effort when you realize how many new things can be made from waste products. Recycling products such as metals, plastics, and papers, also saves on the natural resource based raw materials of oil, ores, and trees.

With UAS becoming more environmentally aware, Dohner can take the initiative to bring several improvements to UAS recycling programs. Some new additions to look forward to are recycling awareness bulletin boards, an increase in the availability of recycling receptacles (that will actually help on a daily basis), campus clean-up activities, and fundraisers to help the shipment of recyclables to processing plants in Anchorage and Seattle. "Students are our strongest resource. We need to work together to take care of the natural resources that we have here in Alaska and we need to focus on the importance of unpolluted mountains and forests, clean water, and clean air," Dohner said.

Dohner can't save the planet by herself. So, if you have a useful suggestion for recycling efforts or if you are interested in joining the recycling club, please e-mail her at: jsmmd2@uas.alaska.edu.

The 2003 Japan Exchange and Teaching Program

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Gain international experience

Requirements

- Have an excellent command of the English language
- Obtain a bachelor's degree by June 30, 2003
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be willing to relocate to Japan for one year

Applications are now available. The deadline for applying is December 5, 2002. For more information and an application contact the Consulate General of Japan in Anchorage at 3601 C Street, Suite 1300, Anchorage, AK 99503. Call (907) 562-8424 x116 or 1-800-INFO-JET or email: cgjpnak@ptf.alaska.net. The application can also be found at www.us.emb-japan.go.jp

Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions of art, photography, written work, and personal experiences are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, grammar, and taste, and must include a name and means of contact for verification. If the submission is to be returned, please include an address and daytime phone number. Send submissions to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

Staff health care cost to increase 493percent

By Sean Smith
Whalesong Staff

The University of Alaska Administration is facing a nearly 500 percent increase in health care cost beginning in January. According to Robert Sewell, vice president of the University of Alaska Staff Alliance, the estimated health care cost for Fiscal Year 2001 was \$14.5 million dollars, but the actual total was \$18 million. The \$3.5 million overrun in health care that is boosting this year's premiums from \$184.60 of last year to \$1095.07 starting this coming January 1, 2002. This is a 493% increase, or \$910.40 increase from last year's monthly dues.

"There are many reasons for this overrun," said Sewell. "Due to the fact that the population is getting older, the morbidity rate is increasing. Also due to the fact that there have been an increasing number of large claims, those of \$50,000 or higher." The UA health care plan had not increased over the past few years and now it looks as though the employees are paying for the lack of inflation in their health care cost. The benefits of the plan have also stayed the same. Sewell said this is causing heated arguments and continual debate on what to do about the overrun cost of last year.

The classified and APT (Administrative, Professional, and Technical)

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New UAS creative writing journal to be published in the spring of 2003!

Call for submissions

The first annual UAS literary journal will publish original works of poetry, fiction, essays, and artwork by

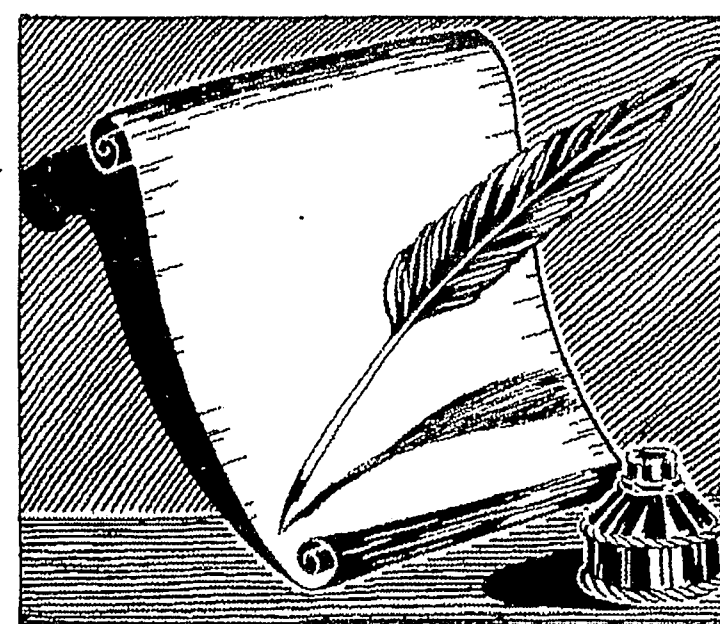
UAS students. For submission guidelines, contact Alexis Easley or Clarissa Pentecost. Deadline: December 16, 2002.

"Name That Journal" Contest--\$100 Prize

We need a name for our new literary journal! Submit your idea via e-mail to one of the addresses below. Limit one entry per student. Prize \$100! Deadline: November 15, 2002.

Contest Entries and Inquiries

Alexis Easley, 465-6415, jfame@uas.alaska.edu.
Clarissa Pentecost, 209-2825, jscap@uas.alaska.edu.



UAS bookstore gets a major face lift

By Vita Wilson
Whalesong Staff

"I like the new lights," is the most frequent comment that Sara Hagen, bookstore assistant, hears regarding the UAS bookstore remodel. The funny thing is, the lights haven't changed (yet), but almost everything else has. New lighting and signs, which should arrive in late November or early December, will complete the remodeling that began this past July.

Shawn Hunstock, Director of Business Operations, says that the remodeling goal was "to create a better retail environment within the store. Most fixtures had been purchased second hand. There was no clear design, theme, or finishes throughout the store." Before remodeling, bookstore employees made do with shelving from state surplus sales and local stores that had gone out of business. The result was a mismatched, dark, uninviting look. So, in late June this year, a \$100,000 budget purchase order was submitted for new shelving and lighting fixtures.

"There was a lot of thought that went into designing the store... I'm really pleased with the outcome and haven't heard any negative comments," said Linda Snyder, bookstore manager, explaining that the new design was

carefully planned to achieve the brighter lighting effect and increased shelving space without actually changing the lighting system or adding to the bookstore's square footage. Snyder estimates that the new design allows for 300 to 500 additional square feet in volume. But, referring to the new lighting fixtures on order, she adds, "this isn't the final look—we had to re-open for fall."

The fixtures selected are called "real retail shelving and displays," and the bookstore's vendor has had 35 years of re-designing, remodeling, and creating college bookstores. Because all light fixtures could not be replaced, Snyder chose light maple and light metal shelving and painted the walls soft white to help reflect and diffuse light in the store. Track lights near the clothing and gift displays will complete the more inviting look. Molding was painted a light blue to match carpeting and round out the unifying design.

Not only is the remodeling aesthetically pleasing, but it is now easier to maneuver around and locate items in the bookstore. American Disabilities Act regulations were taken into consideration while planning distances between displays, and all shelving fixtures can be rotated and moved around as needed. Kelly Manning, UAS student and bookstore employee, says that things are much easier to find now, and the system in the back for books is very simple.

By spring 2003 semester, the aisles will be numbered and signs will point out where different supplies are stocked. The store will be fully re-stocked, and at some point there may be a computer kiosk where students can order their textbooks from Missouri Book Services Direct. To better serve student's needs, the bookstore will begin carrying new product lines. Possible items include PDA and other small electronic items. If there is anything that you'd like to see available that isn't already there, please let Linda know.



The UAS Bookstore before remodeling (left) was dim and crowded. After remodeling (right), it is brighter and inviting.

Gunalcheesh UAS, Tlingit & Haida

Donations allow Woonch Een members to attend AFN conference

By Jenni Hotch-Hill
Whalesong Contributor

Woonch Een members are fortunate to take advantage of an excellent opportunity. They will participate in the Alaska Federation of Natives conference on October 24-26. The theme for this year's AFN conference is "Our Children, Our Spirit, Our Life."

Founded in 1966, this annual event is probably the most important for Alaska Natives. The AFN conference is held each year so that Native Alaskan and state leaders can meet on issues of importance to Native Alaskans, such as education, subsistence, voting, and many other items. More can be read about AFN's amazing history by going to their official web site, www.nativefederation.org.

Some of the Woonch Een club members will attend the Leadership Development Conference during the week-long AFN conference, and will participate in a Shadow-A-Leader project. During that time, students will have the opportunity to watch how leaders conduct board meetings, parliamentary procedures, speak within a small group and before a large group, and networking skills. It is an excellent opportunity for students to see what the leaders do, how business is conducted, and to make important connections with leaders. The leaders who have graciously offered their time are Rosita Worl, Albert Kookesh, Marlene Johnson, and Byron Mallott.

We have also gotten tremendous support from the Juneau community. Rosita Worl has assisted students in finding leaders to shadow. Tlingit and Haida community council and UAS student government have given financial support. Students attending the conference will present their experiences at a both a university forum and a Tlingit and Haida community council meeting.

Tlingit and Haida Community Council has awarded money from their Wellness Grant to the Woonch Een club to help cover costs of the AFN conference. The UAS student government has also generously contributed funds to the club for the AFN conference. Gunalcheesh to UAS and Tlingit and Haida.

Free Friday Lecture Series

Evening at Egan

7 p.m. - Egan Library
Open to all

October 18

"Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights"

Rhonda Hickok,
Assistant Professor of Education

October 25

"Marine Invertebrates in Medicine and Physiology"

Sarah Lamore,
Assistant Professor of Biology

UAS is an ALEO employer and educational institution

PEOPLE & ENTERTAINMENT

Teacher Feature: Tom Harman

Math and fishing help define world

By Rosa Fonseca
Whalesong Staff

Math is definitely a challenging subject. Even a student like Pat Tyner, who has straight A's and manages anxiety by giving himself time enough to take his math tests, admits math is hard.

For Tom Harman, UAS Math professor, this is not a barrier. With words of encouragement like, "You know more than you think you do" and playful quotes like, "Zero is my hero," Harman promises his 100 students that math can be fun, good, clean fun. He said, "I truly believe everybody can learn. Some more easily than others, but I know I am not wasting my time with anyone."

In a full classroom, Harman goes about teaching the four basic operations in Math 054 with delightful patience and sense of humor. Showing no hurry, Harman draws a boat, twelve fish, a dock, four members of a stick-figure family with four baskets waiting for the boat to bring the fish. Then he draws three little fish in each of the four baskets to illustrate the operation of division, defining dividend, divisor and quotient.

His willingness to go over examples numerous times has helped Lisa Ward, who described herself as a student who suffered major math anxiety, to understand mathematical formulas and concepts that had completely befuddled her in the past.

"Tom has an incredible ability to explain things using the most

simplified examples, which helped tremendously to calm my nerves so that I could relax and allow myself to think instead of panic," Ward said.

Karen Cummins is another student who suffers from chronic math anxiety. "Math and I were like oil and water. I didn't have

a life when I took this class," Cummins said. "Tom has confidence in his students, so we gain confidence in ourselves. He will do whatever it takes to make you understand and for me it meant a lot. Believe it or not, I enjoyed math."

Youngest in a family of eight children, Harman started commercial fishing at the age of 6, when his family spent their summer in Cook Inlet, Kenai Peninsula. Harman said he hated it at first but he

Continued on page 8



Photo by Rosa Fonseca
New math professor Tom Harman goes over examples with student Lisa Ward in the Learning Center.

Alumni Spotlight: Diana Cole

By Emily Wescott
Whalesong Contributor

Diana Cote's favorite class at UAS was calculus with Ron Seater, and not merely because of the content or Seater's teaching ability; she met her future husband there.

"You didn't know math could be romantic, did you?" said Cote, current president of the UAS Alumni Association. "As a single parent, a 'nontraditional' student, I didn't expect that I would be forming long-lasting relationships with fellow students because I wasn't looking for the usual college experience - I was there to study, study, study."

Diana Cote graduated from UAS in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in business management, and has since served as director of the UAS Learning Center and executive director of the Board of Game. She is currently the executive director of the Boards of Fisheries and Game at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Cote attributes her academic success to the content of the courses she took at UAS, as well as direct and frequent access to her professors.

"Not only did I have access to them during my course work, but getting to know them on a personal basis means I can now reminisce with them about their classes," Cote said. "Like the time my 5-year-old came to college algebra with me and was worried about my teacher's ability: 'don't they know you're supposed to add numbers, not letters?'"

According to Cote, the content of the courses she took at UAS was directly applicable to the managerial positions she has held.

"The university's use of (adjunct) professors from the community strengthens the content of those courses in that the students are exposed to 'real life' experiences and advice from people who are in the field," Cote said.

Cote, who is active in city-league volleyball and softball, said as an employer she would choose a candidate with experience or extracurricular activities over someone who just has a degree, so finding opportunities to connect with people in chosen career or industry fields is important.

"Take advantage of job shadowing and internship opportunities," Cote said. "Be an exchange student or tutor someone."

Cote said receiving a degree is just one step in building a career; graduates also need experience in their chosen field.

"Don't expect to walk out of the university's door and find a half-dozen job offers for the pay range at which you see your worth," Cote said. "Building a career involves building a network among your peers and superiors, working at jobs or volunteering for community activities where your abilities and talents can be noticed."

"I'm pleasantly surprised at how many friends I made at UAS who are now colleagues in my work world, or just good pals that I still see," Cote said.



Photo courtesy of Emily Wescott
UAS Alumni Association president Diana Cote.

493 percent continued from page 4

employees are currently covered by the UA2000 plan. There is an effort to begin unionizing to get more of a voice to speak to the administration. "There are a few classified employees who are trying to unionize," said classified employee Lisa Ward. "Unionizing will be the answer to get a better health care plan, better benefits, and better working conditions." The classified and APT, which are estimated at about 2800 employees statewide, are attempting to join the Alaska Public Employees Association which also is the unionizing consultant for the trade employees, and represent the faculty on campus as well.

The Staff Alliance recently sent out email to all classified and APT employees asking for their input on several issues. These issues are: What portion of the FY02 cost excess should fall on the employees versus the University? Should the cost overrun be leveled among all classified and APT employees or should a pro-rated scale be recommended to the administration? How should the dependent charges be handled? And should the Alliance re-affirm its prior request for a 2 percent salary grid increase? The grid increase would be implemented because inflation has canceled out any chance for an employee to gain a raise. General inflation, which has been 2 percent over the past years, has canceled out any grid increase, which has been at 1.5 percent the past two years.

The Staff Alliance is adopting a formal position based on the staff's input, which will be discussed in a special meeting that is to take place October 14.

"The health care issue is one that affects all classified employees in the take home money they will receive,"

says Sewell. These health care increases are taking place, while, "There is evidence that the employees are already being paid under market," he said. "These changes are occurring in the health care cost now and there is no evidence that they will stop from increasing state, and nation wide," he said.

Straley continued from page 1

investigator in Alaska, and even though he works fulltime as a writer, he still enjoys taking on the occasional investigation case.

"Being a writer helped me become a private investigator," he said. "Being a private investigator is really about documenting other people's experiences."

He said that his writing has been mostly influenced by natural history and nature writers, and is particularly inspired by Richard Nelson, William Stafford and James Welch.

In his visit to UAS, Straley stressed the importance of learning how to write well in college.

"Writing is the most common medium for expression," he said. "Through writing students will communicate what they know and what they learn, and by their skills in writing they will be judged."

Straley also emphasized that writing is a process and that it takes lots of hard work and perseverance to become a writer. "No matter what you think of your own intelligence or abilities, you can write, you can do it," he said. "And when you start to do it, you'll learn from it ... (you) don't have to be fabulously intelligent or particularly gifted, as evident by listening to me."

Name: Sahar Ghorbanpour

Position(s): **Student**
UAS-USJC Senator, **Government**
Student Ambassador **Profile**



Why did you join student government?

I wanted to know more about the university. I really enjoyed my first year and wanted to give a little back. I also like meeting new people.

What are your plans for student government this year?

I would really like to see more students get involved. Personally I would like to see students out in the community offering their services.

What is an issue that you firmly believe in and why?

I firmly believe that life is a reciprocal process. The more you offer, the more you'll receive. It's your life, so be proactive.

Why is voting important?

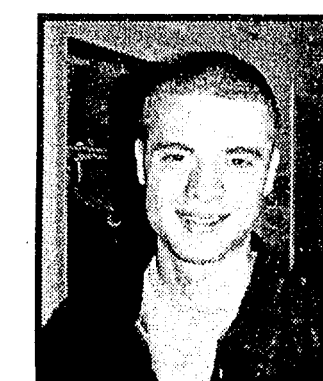
It proves that you care!

Voice on Campus Poll

What is your opinion about the potential War in Iraq?



Erin Boesser-Koschmann
"I wish somehow there weren't so much government and we as people could come up with something else than war."



Joel Webb
"If Saddam has supported Al-Qaida and supplied them with chemical or biological weapons, then we have to do something about it. If we could prove that link, if not we have no right."



Melissa Novak
"From the little I know, it doesn't seem to have a good cause for it."



Larry Dunivin
"I am in favor of war. US seems to be the sane country and has to go help everyone with their problems."



Elizabeth Loesch
"I don't know what's going on. We live in Banfield and we don't have a TV, radio and Internet doesn't work."

wellness is freedom

Sing. Dance. Express your feelings.
It is time to come forward.
To face Native issues with Native Solutions.
reawakening
It starts inside you, and grows into healthy Native villages. It is a reawakening.
A movement. A hope for the future
by facing our past. It starts now.

ALASKA NATIVE
alaska federation of natives

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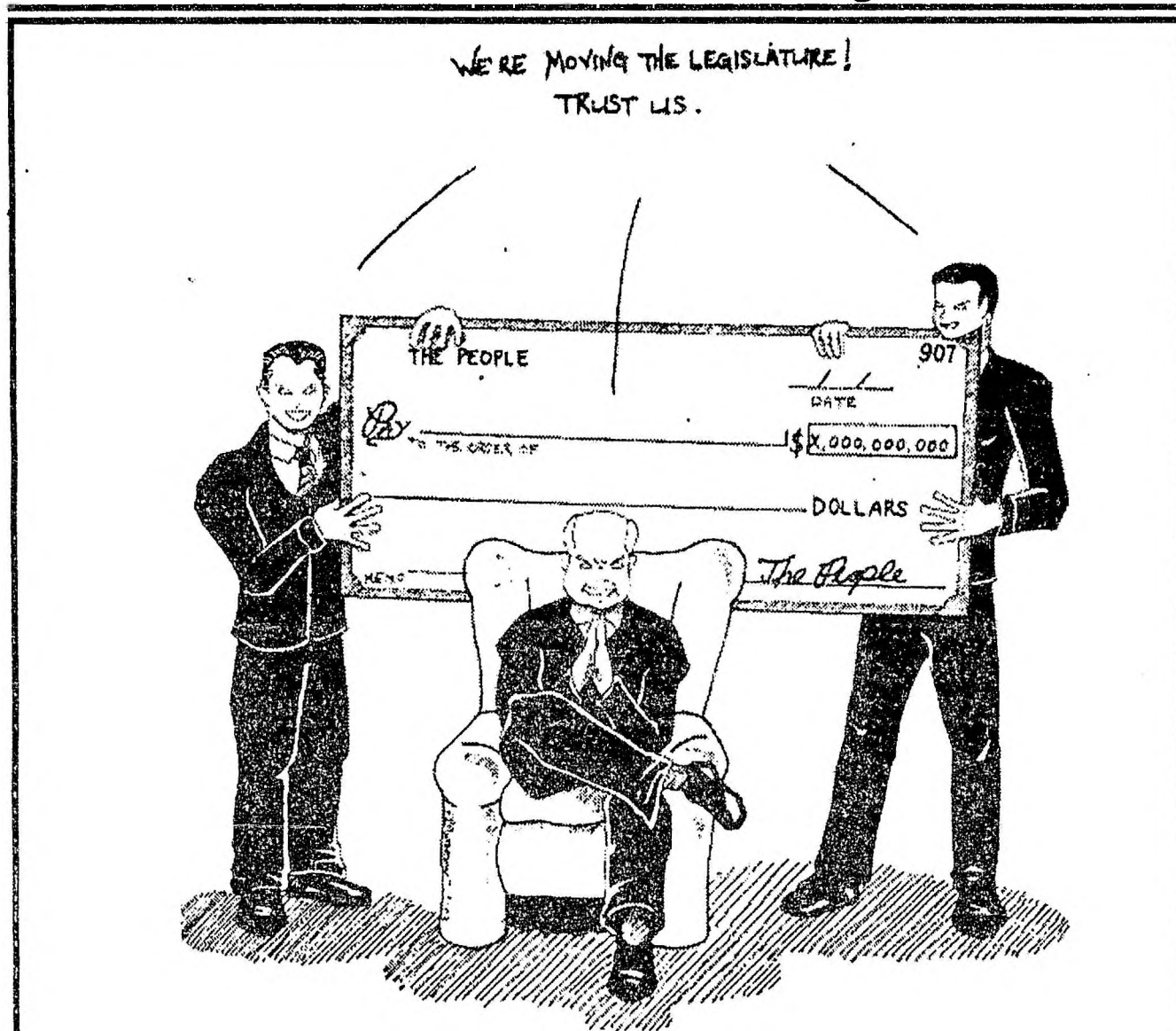
Preview

Friday, October 18-
Alaska Day, State offices closed
John Bizarre, Comedian
SAC, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 23-
JAHC presents
The Australian Dance Theatre
Centennial Hall, 7 p.m.
Tickets at Hearthside Books,
Rainy Day Books, and the door

Tuesday, October 29-
Look for
issue 4 of
The Whalesong!

BAKE SALE
The Whalesong is having its annual Bake Sale!
When: Thursday, October 31st starting at 10 a.m. until the goodies are gone.
Where: The Whalesong office, Room 102 downstairs in the Mourant Building across from the cashier window).
Bring a few dollars and buy some of our frighteningly fabulous treats! See you there!



There will be a Town Hall Meeting at Centennial Hall Tuesday, October 15 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Jim Calvin of The McDowell Group will give a presentation showing what the effects of this move, and a capital move, would be to S.E Alaska, not just Juneau. There will be a postcard writing campaign. For more information or to volunteer, contact Elizabeth or Royce Snyder of the Alaska Committee at 463-4385.

Teacher Feature continued from page 6

knows the experience taught him fundamental lessons, such as his strongest beliefs, respect for nature, and closeness to the land. "I learned strong work ethics, work hard and have a return from it," he said.

Harman fishes in the summer and teaches in the winter. "At the age of 14 I decided I will never stop fishing. Fishing is the driving force that brought me into teaching," he said.

Harman explained the absolutes of working among natural forces that are much greater than ourselves. "When you are fishing there are huge forces like tide, wind and waves. Recognizing, knowing and respecting these forces places us in harmony with nature."

He describes the experience of being in nature as humbling yet empowering. "Seeing yourself as just a speck in the middle of tundra you realize the power of nature and that you are part of it. Math is our best attempt to understand the relationships with nature."

This is Harman's first semester as full-time Juneau faculty. He started in the UA system in 1998. Through University of Alaska Fairbanks he taught distance classes in Sitka for the Rural Alaska Science and Math Network, which has the goal to graduate Alaska Natives in Math and Science fields. Last year, prior to his full-time hire, he moved to Juneau and taught classes as adjunct for one year and a half.

Janice Jackson, UAS academic advisor, said Harman has been very supportive of Native and rural students as well as the services offered out of the NRSC. Jackson said, "We look forward to having Tom involved in activities and programs hosted by PITAS (Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Alaska Schools) and Wooch Een."

His wife, Michele Harman was recently hired as the new counselor in the Student Resource Center. Harman is happy that they are both working in the healthy environment of UAS. And he concluded, "What I love about teaching in college is that everybody is in a progressive state of mind."

Movie Review: "Big Fat Greek Wedding"

By Ben Nestler
Whalesong Staff

I had a date last night with the most beautiful woman on the planet...my mom! She wanted me to escort her to this romantic comedy about some 30-something woman finally finding true love and romance. I thought to myself, "well, at least I'll get credit for it in Journalism class."



The truth is that the movie was great! The movie opens up with a monologue from our heroine "Toula," giving us the basics on what is expected of a Greek woman: "Marry a Greek boy, feed babies, and feed your family until the day you die." Well, she doesn't quite fill the mold and eventually goes to college against the "better" judgment of her father; gets a new job, and then finally gets a boyfriend...who is not Greek. The ensuing drama is one in which many of us college students are familiar with...lack of family approval in relationships! Well, here is the movie that will convince your family that love is all it takes to have a "Big Fat Greek Wedding."

Trails continued from page 3

and it remains to be seen if we can pull it off." He mentioned that they have been in contact with government agencies to try to find a solution. Another concern voiced by students was bear/human safety on these new trails.

There are lights on campus if you need to walk trails at night, and there should have been some bear safety information presented to incoming freshman during orientation, but if you still feel like you need more information or have a problem, this survey is a good way to have your concerns voiced. If you would like to talk to David Lendrum directly, he'd be happy to hear from you, the number is 465-6513. Email him at david.lendrum@uas.alaska.edu you can also go to the Facilities site on the University site directory and that web page is: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/facilities_services/ On the website is a comments button if you would rather comment online. Thank you for your help in landscaping a better campus for all of us!

Candidate Forum continued from page 1

than they bargained for. He believes bridging the fiscal gap is more important for Alaska at this time than attempting an expensive capital move.

"There are critical needs all over the state, and some are not being met," Gruening said.

The candidates expressed in turn that they believe education is important for the state's economic growth.

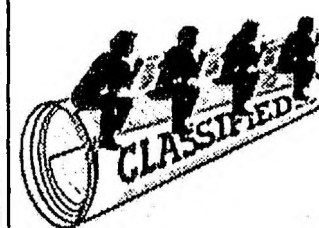
"Juneau nurtured every profession I had and every family dream I had," Elton said. "The most important challenge facing us is our investment in education."

Munoz declared that education has always been a priority for her, and the general obligation bond on the Nov. 5 ballot, which will provide funds to develop UAS facilities, is crucial to developing education in Alaska.

"It is critical we all get out and support the bond," Munoz said.

In addition to educational issues, the candidates discussed fiscal planning, a road out of Juneau, subsistence, and alas, fruit. But with sagging voter turnout from young adults, many of whom are in college and truly care about education, ballot measures and candidates supporting education could be in danger.

"Everyone needs to get out and vote," Gruening said. "Do not make voter apathy the winner of this election."



Wanted: Ex-marine to establish and defend perimeter around quiet university campus. Serious attitude problem, hyperactive thyroid, and sociopathic tendencies looked on favorably. Duties include keeping the peace through regulation of unruly, idealistic, university scholars.

Classifieds

Classified ads are \$7 for approximately 30 words. Words of emphasis (bold, italics) are an additional 30 cents per word. Ads run for one issue of the paper. Ads are free to UAS students for personal use. Contact Virginie at 465-6434, fax at 465-6399, or e-mail at whalesong@uas.alaska.edu to place an ad.

Scary Stories - On a Dark Night -

Experience the magic
on October 28th, 8 pm
at the UAS Student Activities Center

M.R. James
Charles Dickens
W.W. Jacobs
Elizabeth Bowen
Saki
...plus others



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